

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02999 120444Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 /063 W
-----121857Z 041862 /40

R 111347Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3053
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USLO RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2999

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSZC PINT PFOR SY SA
SUBJ: PROMINENT EXILED SYRIAN POLITICIAN VISITS SYRIA
ALLEGEDLY CARRYING MESSAGE FROM SAUDIS

1. EMBOFF TOLD BY REGULAR EMBASSY SOURCE THAT MA'AROUF DAWALIBI, SEVERAL TIMES SYRIA'S PRIMIN IN PRE-BAATHI REGIMES (LAST TIME IN 1961/62), RETURNED TO ALEPPO FOR FUNERAL OF HIS FATHER APPROXIMATELY MAY 2. DAWALIBI, WHO WAS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NOW-DEFUNCT CONSERVATIVE "PEOPLE'S PARTY" AND ONE-TIME POLITICAL POWER IN ALEPPO, RECEIVED WARM RECEPTION FROM FAMILY, FRIENDS, FORMER POLITICAL ALLIES, AND CONSERVATIVE SUNNIS. (DAWALIBI EVEN WHILE LEADER OF PEOPLE'S PARTY RETAINED STRONG LINKS WITH MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD.)

2. WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS FIRST TIME SAWALIBI HAS VISITED SYRIA SINCE GOING INTO EXILE SHORTLY AFTER THE BAATH PARTY CAME TO POWER. SOURCE BELIEVED DAWALIBI SERVES IN SOME ADVISORY CAPACITY TO SAG. ACCORDING TO RUMOR MAKING
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ROUNDS IN ALEPPO, DAWALIBI CARRYING MESSAGE FROM SAUDIS THAT AL-ASSAD MUST TAKE STEPS TO FURTHER WEAKEN THE BAATH PARTY BEFORE SAUDIS WILL LOOSEN THEIR PURSE STRINGS.

3. COMMENT: SINCE KHADDAM HAS MET WITH SAUDI LEADERS SEVERAL TIMES IN LAST MONTH, WE SEE LITTLE REASON FOR SAUDIS TO USE DAWALIBI AS MESSENGER TO AL-ASSAD. DAWALIBI MAY

BE SPREADING HIS OWN VIEWS ABOUT SYRO-SAUDI RELATIONS IN
ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS BAATH REGIME. MERE EXISTENCE OF THIS
RUMOR, HOWEVER, INDICATES THAT ORDINARY SYRIANS WELL AWARE
OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES COUNTRY FACING AND BELIEVE SAUDIS
WITHHOLDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO EXERT LEVERAGE ON SARG
POLICIES. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON
DAWALIBI'S CURRENT STATUS IN SAUDI ARABIA.
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, EXILES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SY, (DAWALIBI, MA'AROUF)
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